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Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 /070 W
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R 240213Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9760
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, FR
SUBJECT: CFDT ON SPANISH LABOR SITUATION

1. RENE SALANNE, HEAD OF CFDT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON LABOR SITUATION IN SPAIN IN COURSE OF LUNCH 22 MAY IN LABATT'S HOME:

(A) NO ONE SHOULD HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNIST CONTROL OVER SPANISH WORKER COMMISSIONS, EVEN IF THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONS INVOLVING SPECIFIC PLANTS.

(B) THE UGT ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE REPUTATION IN INTER-NATIONAL CIRCLES BECAUSE OF ITS LONG SOCIALIST TRADITION AND RESISTANCE TO FRANCO'S REGIME. HOWEVER, UGT LACKS MILITANTS AT THE BASE LEVEL AND THIS IS A SERIOUS WEAKNESS. WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR UGT TO COMPETE OPENLY WITH THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS, THE UGT IN ITS PRESENT
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FORM WILL BE NO MATCH FOR WC. CFDT LEADERS HAVE RE-PEATEDLY CAUTIONED UGT ON THE NEED TO LEARN FROM THE

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PORTUGUESE EXPERIENCE AND TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN MILITANTS TO ORGANIZE THE RANK AND FILE INPLANTS AND OFFICES. SALANNE INDICATED THAT THE UGT IS SLOW IN RESPONDING TO THE CFDT ADVICE AND WAS THEREFORE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT UGT'S ABILITY TO COMPETE WITH WC IN SPAIR AFTER FRANCO.

2. IN CONTRAST TO THE UGT THE USO SEEMS TO BE MORE SUCCESSFUL AND ACTIVE IN RECRUITING NEW MILITANTS AND STRENGTHENING ITS BASE. USO IS ALREADY AFFILIATED WITH IMF AND ONE OR TWO OTHER ITS AND HAS APPLIED FOR AFFILIATION WITH ITF. IT WOULD LIKE ALSO TO AFFILIATE WITH THE ICFT// AND ETUC BUT UNWISELY //GT IS OPPOSING ITS VETO. SALANNE WAS CAUTIOUS NOT TO EXAGGERATE THE STRENGTH OF USO BUT HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHALLENGE THE WC AT THE BASE LEVEL AND THEREFORE DESERVES THE SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

3. HE WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WC HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN JOINING ETUC BUT HE SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT CFDT WILL OPPOSE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

4. COMMENT: FROM THE PARIS VANTAGE POINT, WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IN SALANNE'S COMMENTS IS THE KEEN AWARENESS HE EXPRESSED ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH WORKERS COMMISSIONS IN SPAIN ARE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL AND APPARENT EFFORT CFDT IS PREPARED TO MAKE TO HELP ANY ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE WC. IMPLICIT IN HIS STATEMENTS IS ALSO THE INTEREST WITH WHICH CFDT IS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL.
RUSH

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